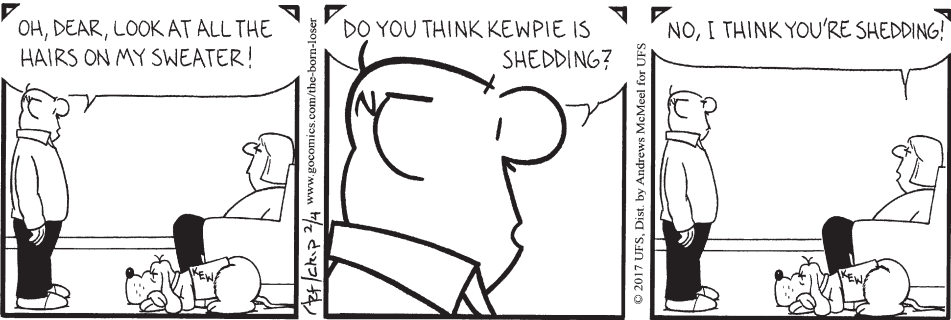
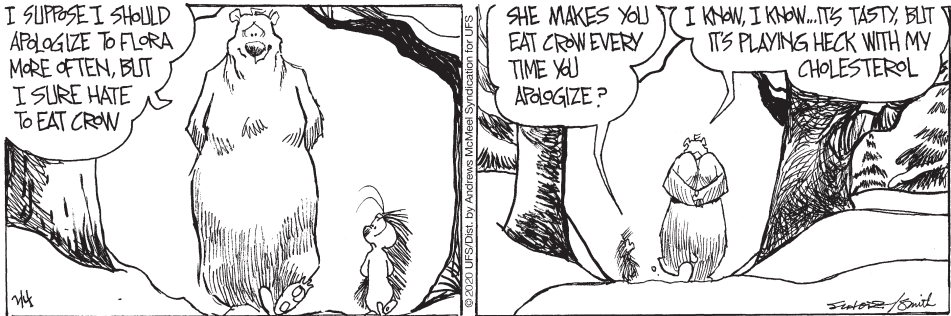




THE BORN LOSER by Art Sampson



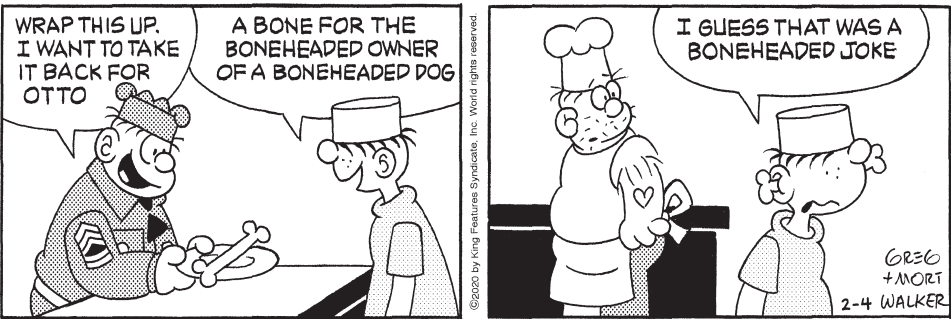
GRIZZWELLS by Bill Schorr



PEANUTS by Charles M. Schulz



BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker



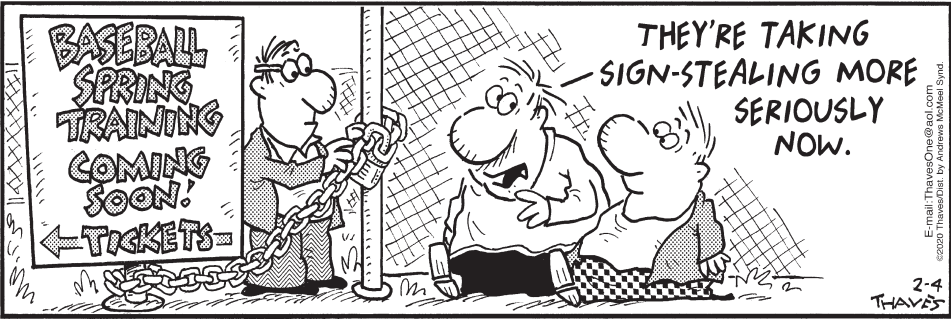
BLONDIE® by Dean Young



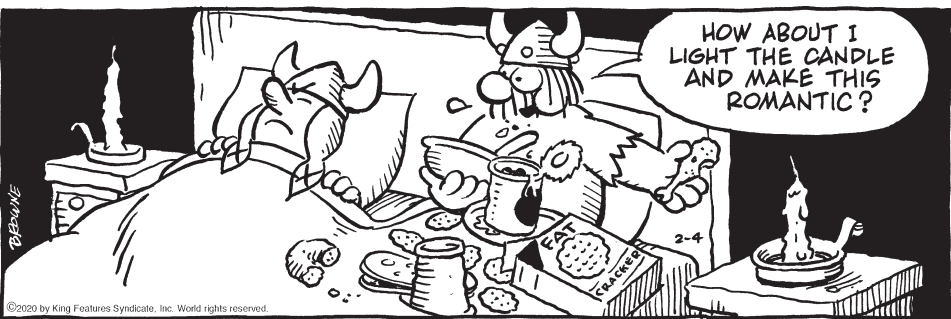
ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue and Jack Bender



FRANK AND ERNEST® by Bob Thaves



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE® by Dik Browne



GARFIELD® by Jim Davis



NEA Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Gist
4 Seines
8 Stein filler
11 Egypt's cont.
12 Memorable times
13 Mineral deposit
15 Worthless coin
16 Chopped down
17 Occupation
18 Late bloomer
20 Type of wave
21 Prompt
23 Exist
24 Calcutta nanny
27 Made up one's mind
31 Kahuna's spud
32 Henri's island
33 Noon, on a sundial
35 — tai
36 Make doilies
37 Mr. Carvey
38 Wireless pioneer

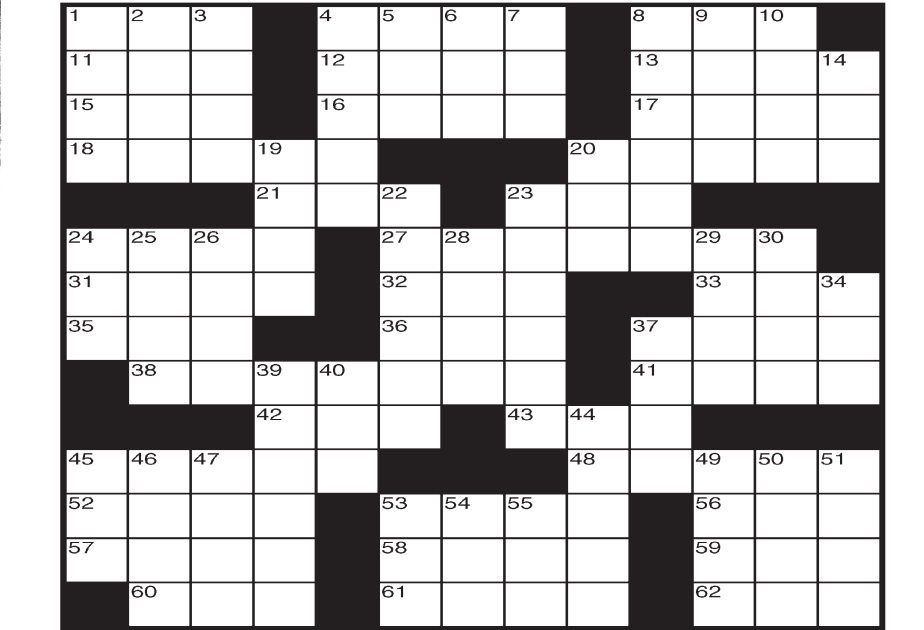
DOWN

1 Space station org.
2 Strange sightings
3 Dry wine
4 First P.M. of India
5 Before, to bards
6 Shooting marble

41 Portent
42 Royal pronoun
43 Debate side
45 Prior's superior
48 Stinging insects
52 Verbal abuse
53 Satyr
56 "Norma —"
57 Hatcher or Garr
58 Feed the kitty
59 Pedro's aunt
60 Hilo guitar
61 Changed color
62 Body part

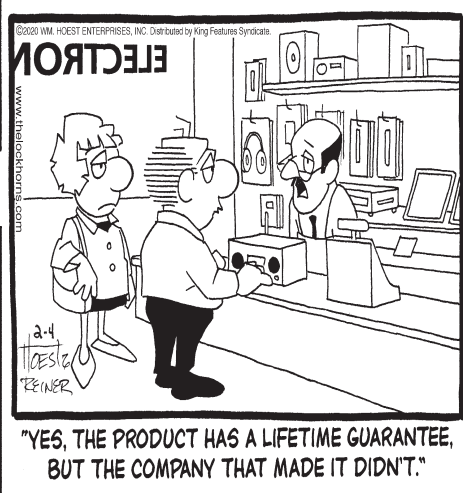
7 Form
8 In the pact
9 Burglar's "key"
10 Millay or Ferber
14 Moray
19 Mountain refrain
20 Prefix for pod
22 Newspaper staffer
23 Mild acid
24 PIN
25 Sir's companion
26 Diva's tune
28 Gusto
29 Reason to cram

30 Eat out
34 Mr. McKellen
37 Lisbon lady
39 Beginner
40 Snipped
44 Had
45 Toward the stern
46 Cordon —
47 Fox's sound
49 Mlle. in Barcelona
50 Set of two
51 Bed of coal
53 Craze
54 "Have you — wool?"
55 Navajo foe

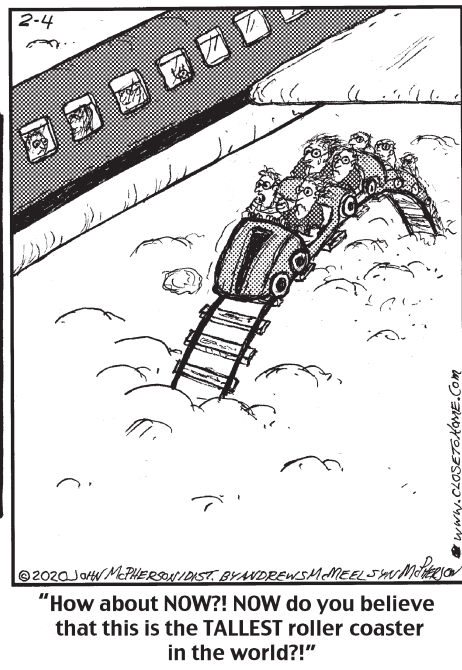


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THE LOCKHORNS by Bill Hoest



CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Your Birthday

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020

Learn, improve and travel this year. The more contact you have with people from different backgrounds, the easier it will be to come up with new ideas. Chasing a dream will keep you motivated to do and take on more. You'll have increased discipline to help you achieve your goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- A change at home will encourage you to start a creative project. If you turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative pastime, it will boost your confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Emotional issues will surface if you live in the past. Anger is a waste of time. Let go of what you have no control over and put your energy into something positive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Spend time doing something you enjoy with a person who brings out the best in you. Distance yourself from people

who bring you down. Choose love over discord.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Your strong sense of value and need to get your money's worth will surface if someone you share expenses with has been excessive. If someone sugarcoats a situation, look for flaws or a mistake.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- Don't let criticism get to you. Focus on being and doing your best instead of trying to keep up with others. Your only competition is you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Don't reveal secret information or overreact. Once you gather all the information, you'll realize that you are in a good position with plenty of opportunities heading your way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- If you are too busy paying attention to others, you will upset someone you should be appreciating more. Be selective when it comes to romantic partners, friends and colleagues.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- A career change may not end up being what you expect. Do

not make decisions regarding your position until you have had a chance to look over a contract.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Traveling and getting together with peers or relatives will confirm that you should not take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Prepare to say no to demanding people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- Take on only what's important to you, and spend time with people who are beneficial to you. Plan your actions carefully and make the most of your time. Romance is on the rise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Channel your energy into something that counts. You will attract the attention of someone who is deceptive. Be careful not to rely on anyone but yourself when it comes to achieving your goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- If you take stock of the past and the present, you will know what you have to do to reach your goal. Don't be afraid to try something different.

Bridge

North 02-04-20
♠ A K Q 10 7 4 2
♥ J 7 6 5
♦ —
♣ A 6

West East
♠ 5 ♠ —
♥ 9 4 2 ♥ K 10
♦ 9 3 ♦ A K J 10 8 7 6 5 4 2
♣ 10 9 8 7 5 4 3 ♣ J

South
♠ J 9 8 6 3
♥ A Q 8 3
♦ Q
♣ K Q 2

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	4NT	Dbl.
5♦	Pass	6♣	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	All Pass	

Opening lead: ♠ 10

CRAZY DISTRIBUTION BLUNTS HIGH CARDS

First today, apologies to the typesetters, who dislike 7-card suits in the East hand, and here we have a 10-bagger! But I was shown this deal by my wife, who sat South.

What do you think of the auction?

The East hand, despite its winners, is not a two-club opening. Only 12 high-card points are too few. That call should also assure partner that the opponents cannot make a game contract unless they have a good fit and voids. This hand has scant defense.

South's overall in such a weak suit was debatable. But it was hard to pass a hand with 14 points. (My wife could not double to show both majors.)

North, wondering how many points were in the deck, used Roman Key Card Blackwood.

Hearts losers? What heart losers? Surely East should have shown his suit at this point. Why not tell partner? Also, maybe the opponents had not discussed counteracting intervention over Blackwood.

South, ignoring the double, gave her normal answer to RKCB. (A sensible agreement is ROPI: Redouble with zero key cards, pass with one key card, bid five clubs with two, and so on. Partner can then ask for the trump queen and side-suit kimps if he wishes.)

North jumped to six spades, hoping for the best in hearts.

West believed that he had to double, following his partner's opening bid. After he led a club, my wife won with dummy's ace, cashed the spade ace, played a heart to her queen and cashed the heart ace. When the king dropped, she claimed an overtrick for plus 1310.